

A  
F A I N T S K E T C H  
O F T H E  
Life, Character, and Manners,

O F  
The late Mr. N A S H.

By Dr. Oliver M.D. Bath  
William

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*Imperium in Imperio. —*  
*De Mortuis nil nisi Bonum.*

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B A T H :  
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THE CHURCH

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THE CHURCH

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BATH, FEBRUARY 13, 1761.

This Morning died

RICHARD NASH, Esquire,

Aged Eighty-Eight.

He was by Birth a Gentleman, an ancient BRITON;  
By Education, a Student of JESUS College in OXFORD;

By Profession ———

His natural Genius was too volatile for any.

He tried the Army and the Law;

But soon found his Mind superior to both —

He was *born to govern*.

Nor was his Dominion, like That of other Legislators,

Over the Servility of the Vulgar,

But over the Pride of the Noble and the Opulent.

His Public Character was great,

As it was self-built and self-maintained :

His Private amiable,

As it was grateful, beneficent, and generous.

By the Force of Genius

He erected the City of BATH into a Province of Pleasure,

And became, by universal Consent,

Its Legislator and Ruler.

He plann'd, improv'd, and regulated all the Amusements of the Place;

His fundamental Law was, That of Good-Breeding;

*Hold sacred Decency, and Decorum,*

His constant Maxim.



Nobody, however exalted  
 By Beauty, Blood, Titles, or Riches,  
 Could be guilty of a Breach of it, unpunished —  
 The Penalty, *His Disapprobation*, and *Public Shame*.  
 To maintain the Sovereignty he had established,  
 He published Rules of Behaviour,  
 Which, from their Propriety, acquired the Force of Laws;  
 And which the Highest never infring'd, without immediately undergoing  
 The Public Censure.

He *kept the Men in Order*;  
 By wisely prohibiting the Wearing Swords in his Dominions;  
 By which Means

He prevented sudden Passion from causing  
 The Bitterness of unavailing Repentance;  
 In all Quarrels he was chosen Umpire —

And so just were his Decisions,  
 That Peace generally triumphed,  
 Crowned with the mutual Thanks of both Parties.

He *kept the Ladies in Good-Humour, and Decorum*;  
 By a nice Observance of the Rules of Place and Precedence;

By ordaining Scandal to be the infallible Mark  
 Of a foolish Head, and a malicious Heart;

Always rendering more suspicious  
 The Reputation of Her who propagated it,  
 Than that of the Person abused.

Of the Young, the Gay, the Heedless Fair,  
 Just launching upon the dangerous Sea of Pleasure,  
 He was ever, unsolicited (sometimes unregarded)

The kind Protector:

Humanely correcting even their Mistakes in Dress,  
 As well as Improprieties in Conduct:

Nay, often warning them,  
 Though at the Hazard of his Life,  
 Against the artful Snares of designing Men,



Or an improper Acquaintance with Women of doubtful Characters.

Thus did he establish his Government on Pillars  
Of Honour, and Politeness,  
Which could never be shaken :  
And maintained it, for full half a Century,  
With Reputation, Honour, and undisputed Authority,  
Beloved, respected, and revered.

Of his private Character be it the first Praise,  
That, while by his Conduct, the highest Ranks became his Subjects,  
He himself became

The Servant of the Poor, and the Distressed :  
Whose Cause he ever pleaded amongst the Rich,  
And enforced with the prevailing Eloquence of a good Example :

They were ashamed not to relieve those Wants,  
To which they saw him administer, with  
So noble an Heart, and so liberal an Hand.

Nor was his Munificence confined to Particulars,  
He being, to all the publick Charities of this City,  
A liberal Benefactor ;

Not only by his own most generous Subscriptions,  
But, by always assuming in their Behalf the Character of  
A sturdy Beggar ;

Which he performed with such an authoritative Address  
To all Ranks, without Distinction,

That few of the worst Hearts had Courage to refuse,  
What their own Inclinations would not have prompted them to bestow.

Of a noble public Spirit,  
And

A warm grateful Heart,  
The Obelisk in the Grove,

And

The beautiful Needle in the Square,  
Are magnificent Testimonies :

The



[PORTICO]

The One

By him erected to preserve the Memory of a  
Most interesting Event to his Country,  
The Restitution of Health, by the healing Waters of this Place,  
To the illustrious Prince of ORANGE,  
Who came hither in a most languishing Condition :

The Other,

A noble Offering of Thanks  
To the late Prince of WALES, and his Royal Consort,  
*For Favours bestowed,  
And Honours by them conferred on this City.*

His long and peaceful Reign, of  
Absolute Power,  
Was so tempered by his  
Excessive Good-Nature,  
That no Instance can be given either of his own Cruelty,  
Or of his suffering that of others, to escape  
Its proper Reward.  
Example unprecedented amongst absolute Monarchs.

R E A D E R,

This Monarch was a Man.  
He had his Foibles, and his Faults ;  
Which we would wish covered with the Veil of Good-Nature,  
Made of the same Piece with his own :  
But, Truth forceth us unwillingly to confess,  
His Passions were strong ;  
Which, as they fired him to act strenuously in Good,  
Hurried him to some Excesses of Evil.  
His Fire, not used to be kept under by an early Restraint,  
Burst out too often into flaming Acts,  
Without waiting for the cool Approbation of his Judgment.

His



His Generosity was so great,  
 That Prudence often whispered him, in vain,  
 That she feared it would enter the neighbouring Confines of Profusion :

His Charity so unbounded,  
 That the Severe might suspect it sometimes to be  
 The Offspring of Folly, or Ostentation.

With all these,  
 Be they Foibles, Follies, Faults, or Frailties,  
 It will be difficult to point out,  
 Amongst his cotemporary Kings of the whole Earth,  
 More than O N E  
 Who hath fewer, or less pernicious to Mankind.

His Existence,  
 (For Life it scarcely might be called)  
 Was spun out to so great an Age, that  
 The *Man*

Was sunk, like many former Heroes, in  
 The Weakness, and Infirmities of exhausted Nature :  
 The unwilling Tax all Animals must pay  
 For Multiplicity of Days.

Over his closing Scene,  
 Charity long spread her all-covering Mantle ;  
 And dropped the Curtain,  
 Before the poor Actor, though he had played his Part,  
 Was permitted to quit the Stage.

Now may she protect his Memory !  
 Every Friend of BATH,  
 Every Lover of Decency, Decorum, and good Breeding,  
 Must sincerely deplore

The Loss of so excellent a Governor ;  
 And join in the most fervent Wishes,  
 (Would I could say Hopes)

That there may soon be found a Man  
*Able and worthy,*  
 To succeed him.







